Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) Process for the treatment of production crude comprising the following stages:

(a) separation of the crude into gas and degassed emulsion phases, and

(b) separation of the said degassed emulsion into water and oil, in which stage (b) is implemented without recovery of a flow from the emulsion interface.

2. (Original) Process according the claim 1, in which stage (b) comprises the substage (b1) of washing the said emulsion with water at the oil/water interface.

3. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, in which stage (b) comprises substage (b2) of stripping with gas.

4. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, in which stage (b) comprises the substage (b3) of washing the said emulsion with water at the gas/oil interface.

5. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, also comprising a stage (c) of settling the oil originating from stage (b).

6. (Original) Process according to claim 1, in which stage (b) includes a settling operation.

7. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, in which stage (b) comprises a stage of passing the degassed emulsion to the bottom of a washing vessel.

8. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 7, which comprises using a water leg comprises from 3 to 15 meters.

9. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 7, in which the degassed emulsion has a water content from 15 to 35 vol%.

10. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, in which stage (a) comprises a substage (a1) of high or medium pressure separation and a stage (a2) of low pressure separation.

11. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, in which stage (a) is implemented at a temperature of between 35 and 75°C.

12. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, in which the said stage (a) is implemented in less than 10 minutes.

13. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, in which stage (b) is implemented in a time of between 4 and 24 hours.

14. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, in which the production of crude is a complex crude.

15. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for the treatment of production crude comprising:

(a) a unit (102; 108) for separation of the crude into gas and degassed emulsion phases, and

(b) a vessel (112) for separating the said degassed emulsion into water and oil, in which the separating tank (112) does not include recovery of a flow from the emulsion interface.

16. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 15, in which the vessel (112) comprises a spray or water distribution system (115) for washing the said emulsion with water at the oil/water interface.

17. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 16, in which the spray or wash water distribution system (115) comprises a plurality of pipes (121a, 121b, 121c) connected together in the form of a manifold.

18. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 15, also comprising a distributor (116) for stripping gas at the bottom of the vessel (112).

19. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 15, also comprising a spray or water distribution system (117) for washing the said emulsion with water at the gas/oil interface.

20. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 15, also comprising a settler (114) downstream from the vessel (112).

21. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 15, in which said vessel comprises a settler for settling the degassed emulsion.

22, (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 15, in which said vessel comprises a feed (111) for said degassed emulsion at the bottom of said vessel.

23. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 22, which comprises a water leg from 3 to 15 meters.

24. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 22, comprising a water make-up device upstream of the feed (111).

25. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 15, comprising a high or medium pressure separator (102) and a low pressure separator (108).

26. Canceled.

27. (Previously Presented) Ship or barge comprising the apparatus according to claim 15, the separation unit (102; 108) being on the topsides while the vessel (112) or settler is in the hull.

28. (Withdrawn)

29. (Currently Amended) Process for the separation of a water-in-oil hydrocarbon emulsion comprising the following stages:

(i) creation of an oil/water interface,

(ii) washing the said emulsion with water at the oil/water interface, and

(iii) recovery of a flow of oil and a flow of water, ~~Process according to claim 28~~ in which stage (iii) is implemented without recovering a flow from the emulsion interface.

30-32. (Withdrawn)

33. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 29, in which stage (i) comprises a stage of passing the degassed emulsion to the bottom of a washing vessel.

34. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 33, which comprises using a water leg comprised from 3 to 15 meters.

35. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 33, in which the degassed emulsion has a water content from 15 to 35 vol%.

36-38. (Withdrawn)

39. (Currently amended) Process for the separation of a water-in-oil hydrocarbon emulsion comprising the following stages:

(i) passing the degassed emulsion to the bottom of a washing vessel, and

(ii) recovery of a flow of oil and a flow of water, ~~Process according to claim 36~~ in which stage (ii) is implemented without recovering a flow from the emulsion interface.

40-49. (Withdrawn)

50-51. (Canceled)

52. (Withdrawn)